

## Small Group Bible Study / Discussion

Sermon Series: *Lord, teach us to pray*

Sermon Title: Praying to a God who says, "No"

Date: January 25, 2009

Passage(s): 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; Matthew 7:7-11; 1 John 5:14-15      Message # 4

### Think about it

- Should you give (your) kids everything they ask for? Why, or why not?
- If God is loving and all powerful, why is there so much suffering in this world?
- How confident are you when you ask God for something?
- What do you do with unanswered prayer? (Or when God says, "No")

### Examine it

#### 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

- Why would Paul have become conceited? (12:7 – see vs. 1-6)
- What did Paul do about his "thorn in the flesh"? (12:8)
- How did God answer Paul? (12:9)
- How did Paul respond to God's answer? (12:9-10)

#### Matthew 7:7-11

- What does Jesus tell His listeners? (7:7-8)
- What is the analogy that Jesus uses? (7:9-11) How does He apply that to us and God?

#### 1 John 5:14-15

- Where does this "confidence" that John speaks of, come from? (5:14 – see vs. 13)
- What is that confidence? (5:14-15)

### Discuss it

- Why do you think God did not answer Paul's prayer for healing?
- What did God mean by saying, "My grace is sufficient for you"?
- What did Paul mean by, "When I am weak, then I am strong"?
- Why would Jesus have to tell people that God gives good gifts to those who ask of Him?
- What does it mean to ask according to God's will? How do we know when we're doing that?
- John says we "have" (present tense) what we asked of God. Why do you think he said it that way?
- What do suffering, unanswered prayer, and God's goodness have to do with each other?
- Can you identify with the statement that God's grace is sufficient for you? Why, or why not?

### Live it out

- Can you see anything in your life that God is using to teach you humility? If so, what?
- What kind of good gifts have you seen God give you? Have you thanked Him for those?
- What kinds of things (prayer requests) are you still waiting on God for?
- How do you know when you are praying according to God's will?
- How might you encourage others this week to wait on God, and/or to trust Him?
- Who can you come along side this week and support in their trial?

### Pray about it

*What does this study prompt you to pray about?*

...something to praise God for? ...thank God for? ...confess? ...ask for?

Additional passage for meditation or memory: 2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 2:20-21; James 4:2-3, 13-15

Next week's passage: Luke 11:1-4; Matthew 6:5-15